

**Minutes of Community Consultative Committee Meeting  
Wambo Coal Pty Ltd and United Wambo Joint Venture**

Meeting of the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) for Wambo Coal Pty Ltd (**Wambo**) and United Wambo Joint Venture (**UWJV**), held UWJV Administration building on Tuesday 13 August 2024 at 9:04am.

**Chairperson:** Lisa Andrews (LA) – Independent Chairperson

**In attendance:** Brian Atfield (BA) – Community Member  
 Robert Ball (RB) – Community Member  
 Janet Fenwick (JF) – Community Member  
 Peter Jaeger – (PJ) – Wambo Coal  
 Morgan Katsch (MK) – Wambo Coal  
 Aislinn Farnon (AF) - UWJV  
 Skye Vickers (SV) - UWJV  
 Alex Fenwick (AFk) – Community Member (Observer)  
 Georgia O’Neill (GO) - UWJV

**Apologies:** Dianne Gee (DG) – Community Member  
 David Thelander (DT) – Community Member  
 Jan Davis (JD) – Hunter Environmental Lobby  
 Shane Gee (SG) – Community Member  
 Shane Armitage (SA) – Hunter Gliding Club  
 Nick Slater (NS) – UWJV  
 Godfrey Adamthwaite (GA) – Community Member

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies (LA)</b>
	The chairperson opened the meeting at 9:04 am, welcoming all to Wambo / UWJV CCC meeting and delivering an acknowledgment of Country.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declarations</b>
	LA declared that she is an approved Independent Chairperson, appointed by the Secretary for the Department of Planning and Environment – engaged by UWJV and Wambo to chair the CCC. LA noted that declaration forms have been completed.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Business Arising</b>
	The minutes from the previous meeting held on 07 May 2024 were finalised and distributed to members on 27 May 2024.

Action items from the previous CCC:			
Date	Action	Responsible	Complete (Y/N)
Item			
1	Conduct Creek Diversion Tour in Q3 2024 – postponed to Q4 due to wet weather.	PJ	Postponed to Q4 due to wet weather.
2	Conduct UWJV Rehabilitation Tour in Q3 2024	LD	Postponed to Q4 2024
3	Liase with Puwampi Unti Kunar and SCCC to display Possum Pelt Cloak at one of the 2024 CCCs	SV	Re-scheduled for Q4 2024 (Originally scheduled for Q3 however cancelled by SCCC due to other commitments)
4	Provide VPA concept plans to CCC	AF	Complete and discussed.
5	Grading Frost Track Road PJ – Inspection conducted and more sustainable option to get water away from track JF - Expressed concern over current condition of road and questioned whether grading from property boundary to Frost track will be undertaken? PJ – When dry to grade and gravel placed locations. AFk - Believes it can be fixed with a grader – lack of shape. Grading needs to have camber not flat. PJ – works looking like September not August as originally thought. PJ to discuss with Fenwick following CCC	PJ	N
<b>4.</b>	<b>Correspondence (LA)</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 May 2024 – email from DT with completed governance forms. Acknowledged by LA.</li> <li>• 17 May 2024 – email to members with the draft minutes for review</li> <li>• 17 May 2024 – email from JD with completed governance forms. Acknowledged by LA.</li> <li>• 27 May 2024 – email to members with finalised minutes and presentations.</li> <li>• 14 June 2024 – email to members with UWJV Community Newsletter (May 2024).</li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 June 2024 – email to members with the Meeting Notice, Agenda and Correspondence Report for Q3 CCC (moved to 13/8/2024).</li> <li>• 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024 – Email from PJ notifying of changes to Wambo South Bates Extended Underground Mine.</li> <li>• 13 July 2024 - proposed Wambo Underground mine closure article</li> <li>• 5<sup>th</sup> August 2024 – Email to members with invitation to Upper Hunter Dialogue notice of community forum in October</li> </ul>
<b>5.</b>	<b>United Wambo Coal Business Update</b>
	<p>AF - Provided the members with an update on UWJV via a PowerPoint presentation (attached), noting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ AF outlined the agenda for the presentation.</li> </ul> <p><i>Production</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ AF disclosed the production totals YTD 2024. Targets for ROM are below budget forecast.</li> <li>○ Highlighted problems with availability of new truck fleet.</li> <li>○ Pit floor hit a few weeks ago – mining a lot of coal for remainder of the year.</li> </ul> <p><i>Approvals Update and Government Interactions</i></p> <p>AF outlined additional consultation items since the last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ DPE is now Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ DPPI – Non-compliance with B56 and B70, outstanding. RFI regarding level 4B Blast fume in United Pit July. Explanation of location (Old dam) and blasting processes chosen – and how incomplete resulted in fume event. Additional weathered material being removed from future blasts.</li> <li>○ MEG – prospecting application approved for A444 Exploration. RCE for two Exploration Leases approved.</li> <li>○ RB – Questions around RCE Domains and Quantities. Minor changes to be made. Closure costs being internally assessed, currently underestimated. Works to ensure costs are adequately covered.</li> <li>○ EPA – EPL licence review undertaken, and inspection completed 1/8/24. Comments made. Updates include requesting that concrete be put into the overburden dump. RB – commented on how more energy/emissions is used when crushing and transporting as opposed to dumping.</li> <li>○ BCD/BCT – Total fund deposits for Mangrove and Highfields paid. Mangoola has retired credits, UWJV to retire theirs once reasonable equivalence credits received. Credits received Friday 9 August. Conversion of credits required and received. Sitting with BCD to be approved before retirement of credits. Further review of future credits required.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>JF – asked what does it mean when credits are retired? AF – explained offset credit retirement, credits retired for the purpose of the project, however, the BSA sites still have significant costs, detailed requirements, and management periods (20 years) associated with it. Noted that the property could be sold with the requirements of the Conservation agreement. Offsets for UWJV project cost more than \$40M. PJ - explained context on pre UWJV historical CA that are still in play. Peabody to manage Wambo BSA. 1 x BCD 2x BCT audited/visited offset areas in the last few months. BCD visited on the 12 August. AF - \$1M on consulting, assessment</p>

and background work alone for offsets, application fee to retire credits approx. \$1800.

**Action:** AF to identify costings and money paid to government not used by government for management to share with CCC i.e. administration costs.

- DCCEEW – RFI received regarding non-compliances reported during preparations for last year’s audits. RFI’s due on the 28 August.  
Failure to report in the proper manner water licence extraction processes, concern for retaliation is low.
- NSW Water – Submission of annual water take forms.
- Singleton Council – VPA meeting. Long journey for the committee, plan sitting with Crown Lands, not yet approved. Funding for drainage works approved. Assessment work on drain under golden highway undertaken – drain not in ideal condition. Fix the culvert/clear the drain. Current funds in the VPA will not cover the earthworks. Council to place on their capital earthworks project list. BA – meeting on the 22 August with Council and committee onsite.
- Dam Safety NSW – Waiting response for revoke of declaration for TD1/2 app.

#### *Key Project Updates*

##### Rehabilitation and Disturbance 2024

- 59ha target – on schedule. Almost halfway there with seeding. Forecast for more seeding in late September. Currently no risk of not reaching targets.

##### *Stewardship Sites/offsets*

- Active management in Brosi, Highfields, Mangrove.
- Wambo management beginning (Southern Wambo project) in back end of 2024.
- Jerrys Plains focus on Mother of Millions weeds.

##### *Exploration*

- Program approved, scheduled to move into area this year. Private land holders yet to be contacted. Access agreements to be discussed with landholders soon.

##### *Environment and Community Performance*

- As per presentation, performance relatively good for the year to date.
- AF presented metrics and highlighted the rainfall total YTD of 544mm (end July).
- AF discussed Level 4 Blast Fume event, RFI. Discussed that fume did not leave site, no complaints received.
- 1 complaint YTD, noise complaint. Lighting management been a focus. Capital spared for ROM lighting in next year’s budget, \$1.6M.
- 1 Community session/bus tour.
- 6.1 Ha new disturbance, 9.2 ha rehabilitated re-disturbance.
- 544.2mm rain YTD (end July).
- Dust monitoring averages remain below criteria.
- No noise exceedances 2024 H1. New mining fleet sound attenuated, improving noise performance. Significant reduction in alarms received.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H1 Measured noise predictions are lower than predicted and criteria.</li> <li>• Blasting overpressure and vibration – no exceedances of criteria to date.</li> <li>• Water management – water storage levels steady, south dam coming online taken pressure off Wambo inventory. Dam 2 decommissioning underway for mining in strip 9 in late 2024.</li> <li>• AF discusses site is assessing options for water management – digging a new dam as opposed to building one – required to supplement decommissioning of U2 next year.</li> </ul> <p><i>Community Engagement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SV newsletter distributed end of May 2024, next newsletter scheduled for Q4, 2024</li> <li>• SV mentioned last community night in April and the next Community Night would be scheduled in October.</li> <li>• 2 participants for Indigenous pathways program, Susanah, Administration and Wiggy, TA in maintenance.</li> <li>• Community investment – money to Carrie’s Place for the purchasing of whitegoods, Singleton Art Prize, Singleton Business Chamber funding for workshops on business resilience and crisis management, SNC funding for a community garden, Whittingham Hall funding for new flooring (used as an emergency facility), Singleton Clay Target Club funding to upgrade security systems, Jerrys Plains Community Hall curtains funded last year now installed. 80% of budget already committed.</li> </ul>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Wambo Business Update</b>
	<p><b>PJ</b> provided update on the Wambo operations via a PowerPoint presentation (attached) noting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PJ outlined the presentation agenda.</li> <li>• Actions arising: North Wambo Creek diversion tour rescheduled to next meeting. Frost track discussions to be scheduled.</li> <li>• Current ops update - <b>PJ</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ South dam currently receiving water, providing more flexibility for the Mining complex.</li> <li>○ July – salvage of artefacts in the AHIP area for the South Dam pipeline easement. For the discharge point an AHIP approval processes is currently being undertaken.</li> <li>○ South Bates Extended Underground (SBUEX). Experienced a graben geological structure, through development mining, the seam was lost. From a safety, geological and economic perspective (supported by in-seam drilling) the decision to alter the mine plan and cease mining early was made and communicated to the workforce. Risk adverse plan chosen. LW 25A and 26A taken out of plan. LW24B currently being mined, with shortened LW 25 and 26.</li> <li>○ ROM production to be lower next year. SBUEX last coal in in September 25’ instead of 26’. Care and maintenance for SBUEX.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- 2-monthly updates to workforce from Peabody – reviews at key stages, cessation of operations at SBUEX, care and maintenance.
- Redundancy estimate provided to staff.
- Peabody has an approved South Wambo underground with Stage 1 Civil Construction activities to begin in September 2024. Peabody continues to remain 50% shareholders in UWJV and operate the Wilpinjong and Metropolitan mines in NSW.
- Closure of SBUEX mine only, not of the complex. South Wambo Underground Stage 1 civil activities, North East and Hunter Pit tailings dams capping, completion of mining and sealing will continue following cessation of SBUEX.

*Environment and Community metrics*

- PJ - Rainfall 539.4mm YTD, 37ML discharge YTD.
- DPHI 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb – Site inspection, EPA 10<sup>th</sup> April 5-year inspection review, BCD 12<sup>th</sup> August– Audit of offsets
- Peabody secured two (2) awards at HSEC conference. Metropolitan's innovative Spring Panther won the Health Excellence Award; Wilpinjong received the Environmental Excellence Award for constructing a new opening to an old mine shaft to provide endangered bats shelter after the existing structure had deteriorated.

**Action:** PJ to send video of awards from NSW mining to CCC

- Approvals update
  - PJ - Extraction plans to be updated reflect changes in the SBUEX mine plan. Submission in October 2024.
- Projects Update
  - PJ - Water inventory – aiming for 1GL for Wambo surface storage. Groundwater in underground workings not currently being drawn from. Water demands on Hunter River will decrease due to following cessation of SBUEX UG mine production.
 

PJ - South Wambo Underground Stage 1 civil – contract articulated truck, wedge cut 35,000 bcm of material, material to go to the surface laydown area – store all machinery (designed 1:1000 yr flood) PJ – provided context with map. JF – noted the project is quite close to the Wollombi Brook. PJ – noted old dam (chitter dam) and fibre optic services, and is fully within currently approved surface disturbance boundary.
  - PJ - One to two construction blasts required – minor in nature, consultation with landowners will be undertaken prior. 3-4 month construction timeframe – start date approx. 1<sup>st</sup> September.
  - PJ - North Wambo Creek Diversion – commenced in 2008, in 2023 SCS completed final stages of 5-year rehab and maintenance plan. Works broken down over a 5-year period: seven new batter chutes to deliver run off water to the diversion, dismantling and reconstruction of existing chutes, construction of road crossing protection and road realignments along access track, subsidence and stability repairs.
  - PJ - detailed and explained the 4 stages of completed rehab and maintenance completed to date. Works included ripping, roads, chutes, reprofiling.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ PJ – briefly discussed Wambo Business update and resources available to workforce – EAP to provide support (mental and financial) through the transition. Lessons learnt from 2020 transitions. Expressions of interest from other Peabody sites that require workers. JF – Enquired about workforce size. PJ – provided overview of workforce breakdown and ensured CCC communication will remain open and continue.</li> </ul>
<b>7.</b>	<b>General Business (LA)</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LA</b> – what is a PB5? As she had seen the signs when entering the site.</li> </ul> <p><b>AF</b> – Personal Best 5, Photo of PB5 provided in Take 5 booklet. Introduced to flip the safety culture, safety for yourself not for the company.</p>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Meeting Finalisation</b>
	<p>Next Meeting - Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – reduced presentation, larger site inspection scheduled. LA reminded members of the LGA elections on September 14<sup>th</sup> 2024.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 10:29am with <b>LA</b> thanking members for their attendance and contribution.</p>

**Action Register:**

Date	Action	Responsible
07/05/2024	SV to liaise with Puwampi Unti Kunar Dance Group and SCCC - being able to display the cloak at one of the 2024 CCC Meetings. – <b><i>scheduled for Nov CCC</i></b>	SV
07/05/2024	Frost Track Road to be graded	PJ
13/08/2024	Identify administrative costs of BSA's and share with CCC	AF
13/08/2024	Consolidate site tours of Creek Diversion at Wambo and UWJV Rehabilitation for Q4 CCC meeting with an abridged meeting agenda to be scheduled.	AF/LD - PJ
13/08/2024	Peabody to provide two (2) videos of NSW Awards	PJ